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script volumes in the Record Office; and as he used "Cal. S. P. Dom." for the Domestic Papers it seems reasonable to insist that he should have used "Cal. S. P. Col." for the Colonial Papers. In a foot-note to his discussion of the British commissioners in Virginia (p. 284, note 2), he refers to the fact that Sir John Berry claimed to possess unusual powers for the suppression of Bacon's rebellion. It is worthy of note that the claim was well founded, for among the Admiralty Papers may be found the official warrant authorizing Berry to impress ships, boats and men in Virginia, if necessary. On pages 252 and 291, Professor Osgood says that the compensation of 600 pounds a year allowed Culpeper in lieu of his claims in Virginia was met by a tax levied on the colony. According to the Treasury Papers this item was charged not against the colony but against the account of the military establishment in America and so was paid by the British government.

There are a few errors in the volume of a comparatively trifling character. "Possibly a month before" in a note on page 149 should read "three and a half months before"; for the sake of clearness "committee for plantations" on page 171 should read "committee of the Privy Council for Plantation Affairs"; in speaking of the "council for foreign plantations" in 1675, Professor Osgood probably has in mind the Lords of Trade (p. 218); he is wrong in saying that the Council of Trade of 1660 was limited in its interest to domestic trade only (p. 281), and he is also wrong in thinking that the Council of 1672 was a consolidation of the two councils of 1660, for the "consolidation" was merely the taking over by the Council for Foreign Plantations of 1670 of the functions of the Council of Trade appointed in 1668. Professor Osgood perpetuates two time-honored but apparently doubtful traditions: one of the "common hangman" who in 1677 drove the Virginia commissioners from Berkeley's house and whom Virginia historians tell us never existed; the other of the hasty and summary passing of the Stamp Act of 1765 (p. 210, note), a belief that investigators assert is based on no adequate foundation.

CHARLES M. ANDREWS.

*Social Life of Virginia in the Seventeenth Century.* By PHILIP ALEXANDER BRUCE. (Richmond, Va.: Whittet and Shepperson. 1907. Pp. 268.)

THE *Economic History of Virginia in the Seventeenth Century* by Mr. Bruce is now followed by this companion study, concerned with the social life, in the narrower sense, of the upper classes. It is to be followed, as the author tells us, by successive monographs on religion and morals, education, legal administration, military system and political conditions, completing a study under the head of "Institutional History of Virginia in the Seventeenth Century."

The present volume shows the same attention to detail as do the earlier volumes, although the author complains of the paucity of materials that directly touch his subject. Nevertheless, he prints an exten-

sive bibliography and again relies upon the unpublished county records to furnish interesting, if scattered, information.

The social life is taken up under a number of attractive topics, including the influences which promoted English colonization, the origin of the higher planting class, social distinctions, the ties with the mother-country, manner of life, hospitality, drinking, fishing, the funeral, the wedding, church, court day, muster and dueling. It is to be regretted that the index is limited to surnames.

In considering the causes of the settlement of the founders of prominent families in Virginia, the author very properly lays stress upon the persistence of the English spirit of adventure and upon the difficulties of providing for the younger sons in the society of the mother-country, which favored the descent of property to the eldest son at a time when the public service offered fewer opportunities for place than it did later. He is doubtless right in emphasizing the elements in Virginia which appealed to those who supported the king. The loyalty of the colony, its devotion to the Church of England and the large influence of the landholders there must have facilitated the migration of upper classes to the Southern colony. On the other hand, that the similarity of country life in the Virginia of the seventeenth century to that of England was an important factor in inducing settlement in that colony, is less clear. In general the author misses an opportunity to point out the differences between the higher planting class in Virginia and the classes from which they sprung. The transforming influences of American conditions upon this body of colonists is at least as important in a study of Virginia society as the survivals of English conditions and habits. It is fortunate that we have his earlier volumes to supplement this presentation.

Three chapters are devoted by the author especially to the part played by the upper classes of England in the origin of the higher planting class. Here the writer makes much use of recent genealogical investigations, and many examples are furnished to show that Virginia received families having high social connections in England, some of them descended from cavaliers, with titles indicating their social rank, more of them from military officers without such titles. The "squirearchy" also furnished its quota. On the whole, however, when the reader takes stock of the considerable number of instances, the actual evidence of large numbers of these representatives of the higher classes is less conclusive than might have been expected. "Among the prominent families who are thought to have possessed a legal right to the coats of arms which they habitually used", he mentions forty-three. It is fair to presume that the author would have given the total number, rather than occasional examples, had the figures been obtainable and had they indicated that the number was much larger. We are prepared therefore for his conclusion that the most important section of the higher planting class during this century "were the families sprung directly from English merchants"

Although he does not comment upon the significance of the fact as illustrating the democratizing tendencies of the new land, Mr. Bruce tells us that the English law of primogeniture was not in general operation in Virginia during the seventeenth century. He gives the explanation that there were few estates of extraordinary value, that mechanical trades of higher grade, the professions and mercantile opportunities were limited in Virginia, and that there was no recognized legal nobility. For the concentration of fortune by primogeniture, however, the greater planters found a substitute in collecting as many public offices in the family as their influence could secure, and passing them down.

Discussing social distinctions the author observes that at no period in the seventeenth century did Virginia's social life resemble the social life of a community situated on our extreme Western frontier, but that a sharp line of social separation existed between the gentleman and the common laborer. If taken literally the statement could be applied to most of the other colonies in the same period. It is probable also that the sentence is somewhat misleading, for it would be hard to deny that in Virginia, as in other colonies, the outer edge of settlement produced something like the frontier democracy of later times. The evidence in connection with Bacon's rebellion and various letters of Spotswood in the earlier years of the eighteenth century seem to indicate the existence of such a population, and they also raise doubts whether there was the amount of aristocratic organization of Virginia society which Mr. Bruce's presentation seems to support. Part of the emphasis is due, however, to the fact that the higher planting class is the particular subject of the volume. His discussion of the terms, gentleman, mister, esquire, yeoman, etc., is important, and is work in a field that should be cultivated in other colonies. He recognizes that the yeomen, or small landholders, made a large proportion of the planters and that they held a position of independence and political importance. Unless he has reserved a fuller treatment of them for later volumes, however, this class will hardly receive its due share of attention. The part the yeomen played in the politics of the lower house, to the disgust of governors like Spotswood, and their place in the later history of Virginia require that they be dealt with more at length. The servant and slave class are mentioned but are left largely to the previous volumes.

Upon the other topics of the book the author writes interestingly and informingly. The reader will gain from the work a more vivid and adequate understanding of the beginnings of the upper classes of Virginia society in the period of lowland ascendancy.

F. J. T.